

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Board of Selectmen

Town Hall
242 Union Street
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S OPEN SESSION held on Monday, April 4, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the H. Bernard Monahan Memorial Room, Town Hall, 242 Union Street, Rockland, Massachusetts 02370.

ATTENDANCE: John R. Llewellyn, Lawrence J. Chaffee, Larry J. Ryan, Louis U. Valanzola and Keven D. Pratt

A Moment of Silence was held for Pope John Paul II.

Veterans Agent Tony Materna led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation: To Staff Sergeant Mary Elizabeth Reilly in grateful appreciation to her service to the United States of America in the fight against terrorism. She was presented a plaque from the BOS and a pin.

A. MINUTES

1. Minutes for March 28, 2005 Emergency Open Session

Motion: Mr. Valanzola to approve

Second: Mr. Ryan

Vote: 3-2-0 (Mr. Llewellyn & Mr. Pratt abstained)

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Rockland Friends – Carnival

Pam Murphy explained that they are working on the details for the carnival. Behind Memorial Park is a possibility. She commended Peter Ewell (Park Department) for always being there for them when they need assistance. "Peter Park" was present a jacket for his efforts. BOS also commended Peter on all his help. Modestly – Peter "it's just my job".

C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

2. Pole Hearing – Hingham Street

Motion: Mr. Pratt to open hearing

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

A representative from Massachusetts Electric spoke...there will be six relocations and one new pole. There will not be any detours or roadblocks.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to close hearing

Second: Mr. Valanzola

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Ryan to approve all 7 poles

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

3. Change of Manager – Old Colony VFW Post 1788

Mark R. Sprague newly appointed club manager introduced himself to the BOS.

Motion: Mr. Ryan to approve Mark R. Sprague as new manager of Old Colony VFW Post 1788

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

4. Joe Reis – Permission for Banner – Baseball Event

Mr. Llewellyn read press release regarding Rockland Cardinals and the Wareham Gatemen (Cape Cod Baseball League). The game is scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 12, 2005 at 4:00 PM (rain date June 13th at 12 noon). This is hosted by Sullivan Tire Company. A request was made to put a banner across Union Street to advertise this event. BOS suggested they work with Peter Ewell on this.

Motion: Mr. Ryan to approve banner on Union Street

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

5. South Shore Package – Urban Panaro – Parking Issue

Although Mr. Panaro cancelled his request to come before the BOS. Mr. Llewellyn wanted to proceed. He read a by-law regarding signs. Mr. Panaro is attempting to regulate parking in front of his establishment. The sign he puts up says "Liquor Store Parking Only". We cannot set a precedent by allowing that. We have by-laws in place to address just

that issue. When he first put this sign out the Police Department asked him to remove it. Then he put it back out. We were going to allow him to put the sign out until 6:00 PM (sort of a friendly request). Mr. Panaro decided not to comply with the Police Department's request. As a result I'm going to ask the BOS to take a vote to enforce the regulations set forth in our by-laws that no person is allowed to maintain a sign on the sidewalk or reserve a spot in front of their establishment. If we allowed it for Mr. Panaro I'm sure the other establishments on Union Street will do the same.

Motion: Mr. Ryan to advise Mr. Panaro that he cannot have sign on sidewalk

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

Letter will be sent to Mr. Panaro

6. Fader Motors – Bond

Mr. Llewellyn – we have been notified of a cancellation of bond for Fader Motors. It is required by the State of Massachusetts that Class II Licenses require a \$25,000 bond so that if they have an issue with a sale of a used car there is a bond in place to deal with a plaintiff's monetary judgment. I would think that if there is an issue with their bond we would need to get them before us. Mr. Pratt – Mr. Fader did come to the Selectmen's Office and he is working on a solution to this. Discussion as whether to revoke license, hold hearing or put on Agenda for April 19th meeting.

Motion: Mr. Pratt to put on Agenda for April 19th BOS Meeting

Second: Mr. Valanzola

Vote: 5-0

D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - NONE

E. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Llewellyn read letter from Building Inspector Douglas Jeffery that due to health reasons Joseph Mattes has resigned from the position of Plumbing Inspector effective March 31, 2005. As appointing authority he has appointed William Stewart as Joe's replacement. Mr. Gary Young will continue to be the alternate Gas & Plumbing Inspector.

Letter was read from Barbara McGarry resigning her position on the Community Center Advisory Board effective March 30, 2005. She suggests that the person replacing her be an employee at the Community Center. This would assist in making decisions and setting policy in the daily functions of the building.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to accept resignation with regret

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

E. CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

A letter was read from Chief Donovan to the BOS advising that the Town of Rockland All Night Winter Parking Ban is terminated as of April 5, 2005 at 12:01AM. The Police Department would like to thank all residents for their cooperation in the past winter months keeping the streets clear of parked vehicles.

Christopher Lacey (Rockland Little League) wrote to inform us that Rockland Little League is holding its annual parade on Sunday the 24th of April. An invitation for the Selectmen to be part of the parade was extended. At noon they will walk from Rockland Plaza to the Stadium at the High School. "Coach Larry need not respond....they know he will be front and center with his team."

Mr. Llewellyn read a letter to Brad Plante from Senator Michael Morrissey apologizing for not properly informing the BOS of the pending visit of the Red Sox World Series Trophy on April 1, 2005. Please know that it was an oversight and one that I hope will not occur in the future. It was my understanding that the trophy was going to be appearing in Abington and so I inquired about the possibility of it appearing in Rockland beforehand. As you know on Friday, April 1st the trophy will be on display at the Calvary Chapel from 9-10:30AM. Please express my apologies to the BOS. I will do my best to see that the trophy is returned to the Town of Rockland at a later date. Mr. Llewellyn thanked the Calvary Chapel for the use of their facility.

Reminder – the State Ethics Commission is going to hold a Conflict of Interest Law Seminar tomorrow night at 7:00PM in this room. I encourage everyone to attend.

F. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Pratt – Gave an update of the insurance issues. He was able to put together information and hopefully will have everything compiled by the April 18th meeting. Election Day is April 9th....please everyone vote. Every vote counts. I'd like to wish Mr. Llewellyn and Mr. Ryan well and thank them for all their years of service to this board and the Town of Rockland.

Mr. Valanzola – I also would like to acknowledge Mr. Ryan and Mr. Llewellyn's time on the board. I know we've had some heated moments up here but I think we all did it in the best interest of the Town. As Keven mentioned please get out and vote on April 9th. I have to apologize as the Vietnam Vet's had their day yesterday and unfortunately I didn't find out until afterwards. My apologies I usually like to attend that....it's an important event recognizing those who gave their lives to protect us.

Mr. Llewellyn – I want to thank my friends and family who put up with me these seven years. It entailed a lot of meetings and coming home late and sometimes I was a little cranky and I appreciate them putting up with me. I also want to thank

F. OPEN FORUM (Continued)

my good friend, Jerry Eramo. He ran three successful campaigns for me. He did a ton of work behind the scenes...but for him I don't know if I ever would have been elected. I want to acknowledge him publicly as he did a lot of work. I want to thank all the present and former selectmen I have worked with on the board. I learned something from each and every one of them. I would like to personally thank Pam Murphy ... she taught me right off the bat to be completely committed to this Town. Pam wears her heart on her sleeves sometimes. She does everything for this Town. Next Larry Ryan ... he brought to this board a tireless work ethic. He taught me if you want to work for the Town of Rockland don't sit there and complain about what you have to do...just do it and complain about it after the fact. You ran for the office, you got it so now "do it and shut up". Larry Ryan – Style and grace is my middle name. To our eldest statesman Mr. Chaffee – He taught me a lot. He's been there from day one for me. He says we need to "slow down" sometimes think about the issues and consider the other sides. Don't make a rash decision. Take your time. That was something that I desperately needed to learn. I don't think I have it down as well as Mr. Chaffee but I wanted to thank him for his instruction on that. Then our Town Administrators – when I came on Kevin Donovan was here. He was one of the most experienced and well-educated Town Administrators that you are going to find on the South Shore. He did a great job for the Town of Rockland and made a decision that was in his best interest to move on and he's doing very well serving the Town of Kingston. Dr. John Rogers stepped up to fill in before we hired Brad. What more can you say about Dr. Rogers. He stepped in and put hundreds and hundreds of hours on the job and refused compensation. We tried to pay him. He got a lot of things done as an Interim Town Administrator and I want to thank him. Mr. Plante came on during some turbulent times here in the Town of Rockland. He's done a great job steering our ship and pointing us in the right direction. He has a great work ethic and brings a military way of looking at things. Make a decision, do the job that has to be done and stick with it. He's done an outstanding job. I want to thank all those who came out and voted in the three elections (especially for me). I received a letter from Michael Morrissey and it said to the Honorable John Llewellyn. It seemed a little odd to me at the time but I've had an opportunity to think about it since then. It truly is an honor to sit up here as a Selectman for the Town of Rockland. We are entrusted with the peoples vote and it is an honor to serve those who come out and vote. I just want to remind everyone that people are dying overseas to bring democracy to places so that people can enjoy the right to vote (something that we all too often take for granted). Let's make a statement this coming Saturday. That we understand and we haven't forgotten that people are dying overseas, losing their sons and daughters, loved ones and parents to give someone the right to vote. Just show the men and women overseas that we aren't forgetting what they are doing for us. Finally, I want to thank Larry Ryan & his family for putting up with us and wish them good luck in all their future endeavors.

F. OPEN FORUM (Continued)

Larry Ryan – In order to start talking about whom to thank ... it would be impossible. John touched upon a lot of people that also helped me in my life and in my elections. I was one month into the job, I had things going and under control, things were rolling and Mr. Chaffee called me up. Hi Larry he said, your doing a great job but you wouldn't mind informing the rest of the board what your doing would you? (Laughter) That's part of it he said. We work together as a group of people and that's what we do...we keep each other informed. For the most part I worked towards that end while I was a Selectmen. Trying to keep as many people informed as to what is going on so that everyone would have a good clear understanding of what we were trying to get you to vote or not vote for. I'm not going to go through a whole list of people to thank tonight because I'm going to thank each one of them individually when I see them or I'll go out of my way personally to find them. But there are a couple of people that I am going to thank tonight and #1 will be my wife Mary. (Larry presented Mary with roses.) Without Mary I'd be nobody, I really mean that. She is one of the best people the Town of Rockland will ever see...compared to me I'm a 1 she's a 10. If it wasn't for her I wouldn't be where I am today. Larry pointed out his two sons (Matt & Dan) who were nice enough to come to one meeting for me. (Laughing) The police, fire all way through the town...you've been great. Brad Plante sitting in the devils seat...hottest seat in town. Tough business to be a Town Administrator and you're doing a good job. BOS – we debated, we fought, we screamed....no blood was shed (although there were bets on it from people out there in TV land) but that never happened because you know something.....everybody has the best interests of the Town of Rockland in their heart. There is one more person that I would like to thank. I'm going to make a motion in open forum and nominate Lawrence Chaffee as Rockland's Best.

Motion: Mr. Ryan to nominate Lawrence J. Chaffee as Rockland's Best

Second: By all members of the board

Vote: 5-0

Mr. Chaffee was invited to the podium. Mr. Ryan - I've asked Mr. Chaffee to sacrifice many things. If you need someone to do something he's there. He's the best guy I've ever had on the board. Mr. Chaffee was presented with a Rockland's Best Plaque which read as follows: *For a lifetime of dedication to the youth and the people of the Town of Rockland. You are one of Rockland's finest leaders both politically and in youth sports. Thank you for all you have done for the Board of Selectmen, the youth of the Town and all the people of Rockland.*

Mr. Chaffee – Presented his own awards. Anytime a Town loses people who have served between them 17 years on the board, we are losing a lot. These two gentlemen (John & Larry) should be applauded for the work they have done, for the commitment to the Town and for the commitment I'm sure they will

F. OPEN FORUM (Continued)

continue to show. Mr. Chaffee read the certificates for each (they are identical except for the length of the terms): *This certificate is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement to Selectmen (John & Larry) for your outstanding service and achievements while serving (length of term) on the Rockland Board of Selectmen. Your dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our Town have made Rockland a better place to live. Your efforts for our Town will hopefully be a guide for future elected officials who will follow in your footsteps on this and other boards in Rockland. Congratulations and best wishes in all your future endeavors.*

Mr. Chaffee would also like to remind everyone to come out and vote on Saturday.

Andy Traintaffelow – I had the privilege of working with the Highway Department last week. They are replacing a pipe on Beech Hill. The five men cleared out the pipe and put two other pipes inside that pipe. Cut holes on top on the street and filled it with cement which made it stronger and it will probably last for a hundred years. I want to say that they saved the Town about \$150,000 plus the inconvenience of closing off Beech Street for about four days. They did a marvelous job. I just wanted to say thank God we have them. Another thing.... I'm going to miss you guys you came to our aid with the junk yard. When my wife was sick and I was down in the dumps Larry came to my side and helped me through that ordeal. We're going to miss both of you and I wish you all the luck in the world and I'll save you a couple of seats in the audience.

Chief Donovan – As probably one of the senior department heads in Town (16 years), and I think Larry has been on longer than I have. I've seen Selectmen come and Selectmen go but these are two people that I'm really going to miss. Larry I got to know personally as a politician and as a friend. He was an asset to me personally as chief and an asset to the police officers. He was an asset to the employees of the Town and the citizens of Rockland. I want to personally thank you very much and I wish you the best. You are one of the guys I don't want to see leave. As far as John Llewellyn goes, he is a member of the Police Department and he was recently promoted. But I will say this...he always kept Police Department and Board of Selectmen issues totally separate. I respect him for that. When he wore this hat or his police hat I want to commend him on his honesty and integrity no matter what hat he was wearing. Wearing two hats at the same time is extremely difficult. The Town of Rockland is going to miss you as well. I want to wish you the best.

Chief Sammon – As the junior department head (laughter), I would like to commend you for the efforts you have given the Town of Rockland. You have helped me on numerous tough decisions. The Town is going to miss you and I commend you on the work you have done. I know I'll see you in the future.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of collective bargaining and not to reconvene

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0 Mr. Chaffee-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes, Mr. Valanzola-yes, Mr. Pratt-yes and Mr. Llewellyn-yes.

**LAWRENCE J. CHAFFEE
VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**BRADLEY A. PLANTE
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**